Community Facilities and Services

Centre County Comprehensive Plan — Phase II Implementation Strategies

Introduction

In 2003, the Centre County Board of Commissioners adopted a County-wide Comprehensive Plan which included background studies, inventories of existing conditions, goals, and recommendations. These recommendations, revised and updated, continue to serve as a vision and a general direction for policy and community improvement. Those specific to **community facilities and services** will be discussed here along with implementation tools to achieve the recommendations. For more detailed background information please refer to the 2003 Comprehensive Plan available on the Centre County Planning and Community Development webpage at: **http://centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?nid=212**.

County-wide Planning Goals

Adopted 2003

#1 — Identify, preserve, enhance and monitor agricultural resources.

#2 — Identify, preserve, and monitor environmental and natural resources.

#3 — Preserve historic and cultural resources.

#4 — Ensure decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing in suitable living surroundings, compatible with the environment for all individuals.

#5 — Appropriately locate and maintain existing and proposed community facilities, utilities, and services for all residents.

#6 — Identify and promote economic development initiatives to maintain and grow a diverse economic base in each of the County's planning regions.

The Keystone Principles

In 2005, Pennsylvania adopted the "Keystone Principles for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation", a set of principles that have focused Pennsylvania on reinvestment and reuse of its assets.

Initially intended for state agencies, these principles are becoming embraced by local governments as a tool to guide local decisions and have become adopted into county comprehensive plans.

- Redevelop first
- Provide efficient infrastructure
- Concentrate development
- Increase job opportunities
- Foster sustainable businesses
- Restore and enhance the environment
- Enhance recreational and heritage resources
- Expand housing opportunities
- Plan regionally and implement locally
- Be fair

This plan update recommends county-wide adoption of these principles.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Current Trends and Considerations

Community facilities and services are owned and delivered by both public– and private sector entities across Centre County.

The availability and range of both facilities and services depends most often on the population being served and the needs of that population. Services for children and youth differ greatly from adult services, just as individuals will have specific needs while a family will have multiple needs.

Facilities and services can be divided into broad categories:

- Education

- Healthcare

- Recreation

- Transportation

- Social

- Utilities

- Public Safety

County Government operates several facilities from which these services can be acquired and/or are administered. The municipalities also provide community services at levels contingent upon budget. Otherwise, there are private-sector options available.

Centre County remains in the top 5 Pennsylvania counties experiencing population growth. Centre County is the only central county experiencing population growth (see map, on page 3). Centre County will always have a larger percentage of persons between age 20 and 24 but forecasts point to increases in the percentage of people age 65 and over by the year 2040 (see graph, on page 3).

Percent Change in Population, 2010 to 2018

Statewide: +0.8%

Decreased over 5.0% (13)
Decreased 2.5% to 5.0% (20)
Decreased under 2.5% (14)
Increased under 2.5% (9)
Increased 2.5% to 5.0% (7)
Increased over 5.0% (4)
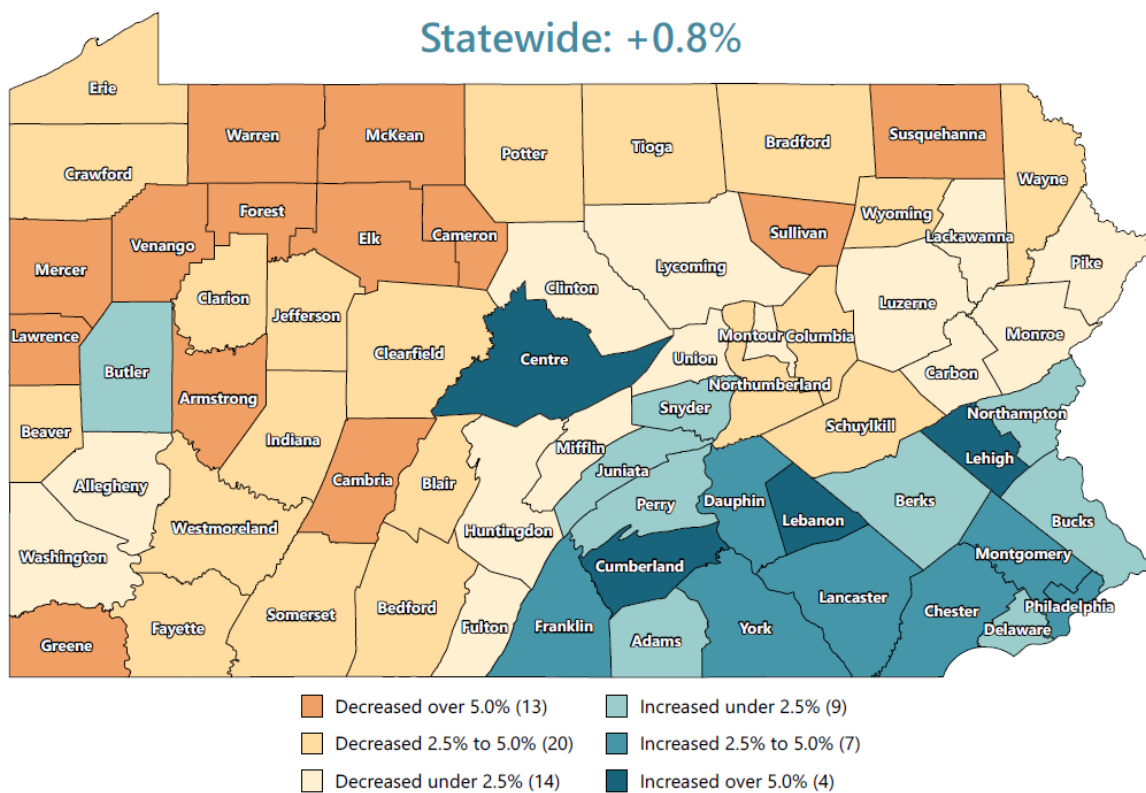
PennState Harrisburg | Pennsylvania State Data Center
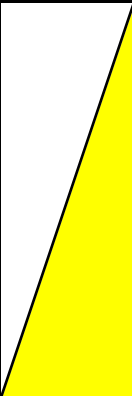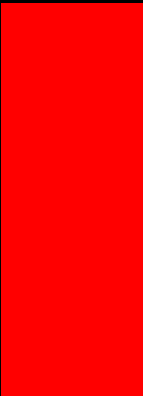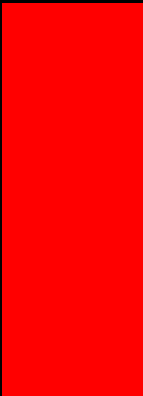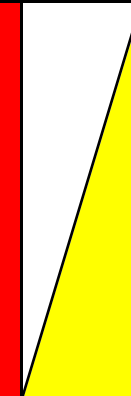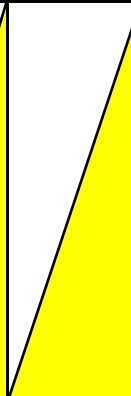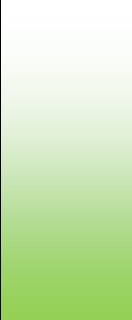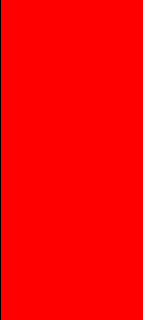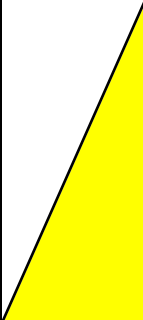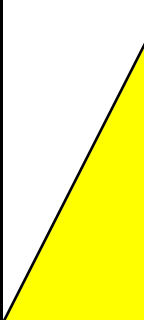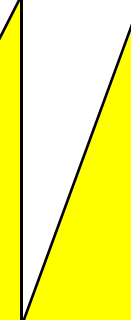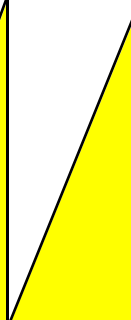
U.S. Census Bureau
Population Estimates Division

Centre County 2040

AGE	PERCENT of total population	GENERATION	YEARS BORN
75+	9.7%	Baby Boomer	1946 to 1964
60 - 74	12.0%	Gen X	1965 to 1980
40 - 59	25.8%	Millennial	1981 to 2000
20 - 39	35.0%	Digital	2001 to 2020
Under 20	17.5%	Next	2021 and after
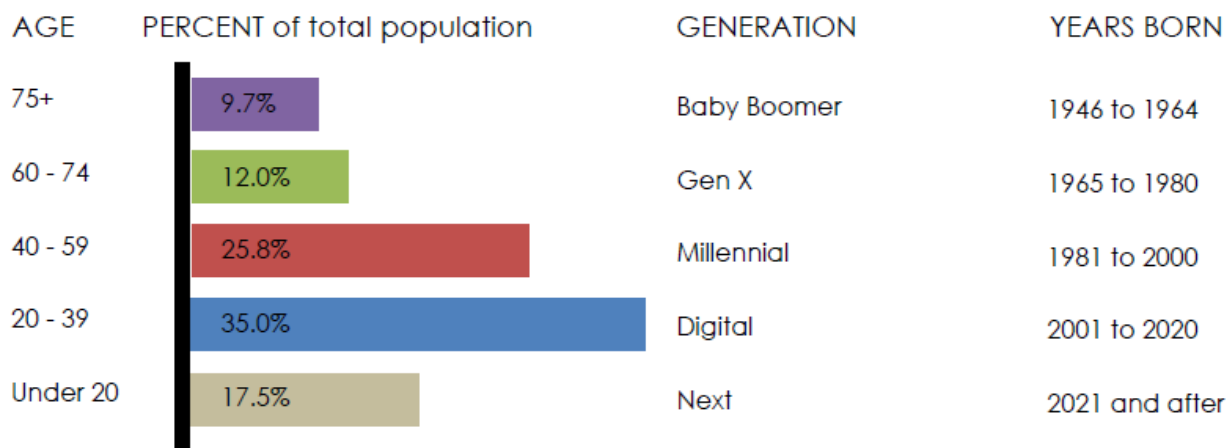
Extracted from data made available through the Pennsylvania State Data Center.

Community Facilities and Services Issues by Planning Region

ISSUE	CENTRE	LOWER BALD EAGLE VALLEY	MOSHANNON VALLEY	MOUNTAINTOP	NITTANY VALLEY	PENNS VALLEY	UPPER BALD EAGLE VALLEY	ISSUE SYMBOL
1. Need to identify more sites where multi-use, shared facilities could provide both local and regional opportunities for social interaction, recreation and educational activities.	Medium (yellow)	High (red)	High (red)	High (red)	Medium (yellow)	Medium (yellow)	High (red)	☑
2. Need to explore more opportunities to increase citizen participation in planning for local and regional community facilities and services.	Low (green)	High (red)	Medium (yellow)	Medium (yellow)	Medium (yellow)	Medium (yellow)	High (red)	✋

The issues identified at the county level must have some relevance to the regional and local planning bodies. While not every issue will be a high priority across all regions at this time, this table graphically represents the feedback received from regional and municipal representatives. Issues are prioritized as **high** *(***indicated by red***),* **medium** *(shown in* **yellow***), or* **low** *(in* **green***).*
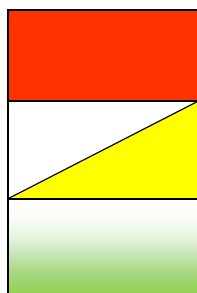
High priority issue

Medium priority issue

Low priority issue

The symbol associated with each issue will be found on the page headings.

Each issue is addressed as a chapter in the document containing the data, goals, strategies, and tools supporting the issue.

Determining Issue Priority

- Recommendations from the 2003 Comprehensive Plan

- Input from the Municipalities regarding prior facility planning

Issue #1. Need to identify more sites where multi-use, shared facilities could provide both local and regional opportunities for social interaction, recreation and educational activities.

Background and Data

Multi-use community facilities provide space for a variety of users and not only accommodate, but also enhance, the social and recreational experiences of the users.

Shared facilities that are supported by several partners have an "economies of scale" advantage where:

- Both operational costs and revenues are shared;

- Project development costs are reduced;

- More capability to expand/offer programs and events;

- And increasing networks through partnerships for additional resources and funding.

Multi-use facilities often bring various groups into a shared social environment that may not otherwise interact. For example, a multi-purpose facility that can accommodate both senior citizens and youth groups presents an opportunity for multi-generational activities.

Shared facilities can be supported by various partners and community stakeholders. Not only can a municipality share space and/or costs within a facility but other entities can as well. School districts, business enterprises, social and faith-based groups, and cultural and artistic venues can offer facility users exposure to topics, activities and hands-on learning.

The Old Gregg School Community and Recreation Center

An example of a multi-use facility is the Old Gregg School in the village of Spring Mills, Gregg Township.

The facility also houses the Gregg Township Municipal Offices.

Because the building served as the former school, it already had a multi-purpose room and individual rooms to accommodate smaller groups simultaneously. The facility has a fitness room, a commercial kitchen, and a lending library.

The community center also hosts annual events such as an arts and crafts fair.

The Old Gregg School serves as model example of a multi-use community facility in which the municipality is a partner.

Objective for

Multi-Use Shared Community Facilities

Assist municipalities in identifying buildings that can serve as community hubs for both regional and local users that can accommodate multiple groups, provide adequate space and/or potential for future expansion, and can prove to be self-sustaining through community partnerships.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

Goal 1. Promote the adaptive reuse of vacant and underutilized buildings that can serve as multi-use community facilities.

Strategy: Continue to work with the municipalities to update the Underutilized Site Inventory.

Goal 2. Encourage municipalities to develop municipal buildings as multi-use facilities for the community.

Strategy: Provide municipalities with examples of municipal-owned facilities that share space with other entities, including common public spaces and outdoor facilities.

Goal 3. Facilitate communications between stakeholders that could serve as financial and programming partners at community facilities.

Strategy: Assess community needs that future facilities should provide and identify entities that could provide support.

Tools

Underutilized Site Inventory

The underutilized site inventory is a list of vacant or partially-vacant buildings that have been identified by the municipalities that are:

- Zoned for commercial or mixed uses;

- Have or are located within close proximity to water, sewer, and related infrastructure;

- Close to town or village centers;

- Accessible to transportation corridors.

The term "underutilized" means that the building is not being used to its fullest economic potential. Rehabilitating buildings often means some level of investment but, the costs can be greatly reduced when the infrastructure is already in-place and the building shell and frame are structurally sound. Re-using vacant or partially vacant properties for multi-use community facilities is a great example of "building recycling".

Site information is collected from the municipalities and published on the County's website. The inventory is now part of the Centre County Site Finder, which is linked to the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC) website. The shared link offers an opportunity to market these sites to a wider variety of investors.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Intergovernmental or multi-municipal cooperation is essential to shared-facilities planning and management. Municipalities can enter into shared-use agreements to address what type and what level of support each municipality can provide. Sharing costs can be a cost-effective measure at the municipal level that benefits all communities within a region. Councils of Government, or COGs, are instrumental in implementing municipal agreements. Centre Region's COG covers State College Borough and the townships of College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris and Patton. The Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG was formed to coordinate fire protection funding and services.

Capital Improvement Plans and Budgets

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Budget is a guide for long-term investments in community facilities and infrastructure. A CIP allows officials to layout desired improvements and compare those expenses against current and projected revenues. For regional projects in which costs will be shared by multiple municipalities, a CIP can incorporate other sources, such as potential grant funding, if that is an applicable source.

Future Land Use Planning

Siting new community facilities and infrastructure goes along with future land use planning. Placing facilities and supporting infrastructure should compliment not be in conflict with land uses. Community facilities should be located in areas that are convenient and accessible, preferably for multi-modes of transportation.

Certain facilities, especially pedestrian pathways and recreation trails, can link multiple land uses together. As the trail passes through various land uses, however, the trail will likely change by width, surface type, and even the type of mode permitted on different segments.

Municipal and regional future land use planning allows a community to better envision where the concentration of residents will be and the most "ideal" locations for community facilities.

Transportation Planning

Comprehensive transportation planning addresses both infrastructure improvements and multimodal services. Part of the planning process is to identify where service needs are and how to meet those needs. For example, access to public bus transportation is limited to the Centre Region and portions of Spring and Benner Townships and Bellefonte. In more rural areas, fixed commuter routes are not financially feasible to operate. However, a multi-use facility could serve as a park-n-ride location for worker commuters sharing a car pool or a regional vanpool.

Healthcare Planning

In more rural county regions, the lack of access to primary physicians and the financial struggles that emergency medical service providers are facing brings new challenges to community facilities and services planning. Healthcare and emergency medical services sharing facilities may offer an opportunity to decrease overhead expenses. Rural physicians and EMS serve smaller populations across a larger geographic area so the location of offices and stations needs to be strategically placed to ensure optimal access. As some medical offices and hospitals now offer access to fresh foods, Centre County could consider how to integrate a similar concept in attracting farmers' markets closer to healthcare facilities.

More examples of shared facilities

The Walker Township Water Association has office space in the Township's building.

Centre Hall Senior Center is co-located in the Centre Hall Fire Company Building; the senior center programs rotate between various locations in Penns Valley.

The New Leaf Initiative is located on the 3rd floor of the State College Borough Building. New Leaf rents desk space and/ or small cubicle space in a co-working environment.

The Mountain Top Activity Center is the former Clarence school building. The planned center will offer fitness classes, a library, a computer lab and after school day care, among other programs.

Issue #2. Need to explore more opportunities to increase citizen participation in planning for local and regional community facilities and services.

Background and Data

Citizen participation is a critical component to the community decision making process. Engaging residents and understanding their level of need for services and facilities is perhaps the most important factor—the residents of the community, after all, are the recipients or benefactors to the facilities and services.

It is difficult to gage or even quantify what merits a successful level of citizen participation. If one citizen attends a meeting but does not make a public comment, is that considered to be citizen participation?

Barriers to Citizen Engagement

- The capacity and ability of different citizens to participate;

- Hard to reach groups that may be socially or geographically isolated;

- Contested or divided communities;

- Gaps in information;

- Literacy levels or communication styles.

Engagement Issues to Consider

- Techniques and engagement methods to be used;

- Need for independent facilitation;

- Location and accessibility of venue;

- Number and type of engagement events;

- Transportation requirements;

- Daycare needs;

- Format and content of communication and publicity materials;

- Use of interpreters and signers;

- Need for outreach activities.

For some our municipal partners, it is understandable that not all engagement issues for consideration can be addressed; there are, of course, limited municipal resources and staff capacity. However, if only a select few of these engagement issues are addressed it would provide opportunities to reach residents that otherwise may not participate in a community planning process.

Objective for

Increasing citizen participation

Provide municipal officials with methods to better engage citizens in the planning process and offer a variety of options by which municipalities can build "community participation toolkits" tailored to meet their needs.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

Goal 1. Encourage municipal officials to think about citizen participation as a process not just an event (public meeting, town hall, roundtable, etc.).

Strategy 1. Engage citizens very early on before the planning for facilities and/or services before a plan is even drafted to get a better sense of community needs.

Strategy 2. Involve citizens at every step in the decision-making process from pre-planning, drafting concepts, narrowing ideas, finalizing goals, adopting and implementing.

Strategy 3. Be willing to share responsibility and accountability for the outcomes of the process with citizen stakeholders.

Goal 2. Continue to provide technical assistance to municipalities when officials are planning for facilities and/or services.

Strategy 1. Supply officials with the most up-to-date demographics for population, housing, income, and related social characteristics.

Strategy 2. Provide officials with mapping services to help them determine facility locations and/or service areas.

Tools

Community Mapping

Community mapping is a useful way to engage people of all levels of capability. A variety of topics can be mapped including land use, community assets, **facilities**, and transportation options to develop a snapshot of an area. Maps and photographs of an area or specific location can be used to illustrate how residents perceive their community: likes and dislikes or improvements they desire. Ideas are generated in small group discussion. Group discussions should be facilitated to help citizens explore issues, build consensus or identify potential conflicts.

Community mapping is more about visualization.

Community Modeling

The value of community modeling is that it is appropriate to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Modeling builds community ownership and lets participants identify issues and prioritize actions. Cards with ideas or proposals, along with blank cards, are made available to participants. People can select or write their own cards which reflects their interests and place them on the community model where they think the idea should be implemented. Cards are counted and their locations noted on the community model. The details are collected and returned to the participants for further discussion and prioritization. The community modeling activity is very applicable to siting community facilities because planners not only receive feed-back as to **where** facilities should be located but **why** residents desire facilities at a specific location.

Community modeling is more about strategic planning.

EDUCATIONAL Facilities & Services

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Centre County is covered by seven (7) public school districts and has 11 private schools and 4 charter schools covering preschool age through secondary level education. Facilities planning is always at the forefront of districts' strategic maintenance goals. Whether the school board votes to renovate existing facilities, construct new buildings, move students to another location, or close a specific school building, these decisions are in response to long-term forecasting. Projected changes in the number of students, the useable lifespan of a facility, and the cost analyses of refurbishing versus other options are weighed. Transportation costs—busing students to school—is also a factor in more rural areas of the County.

Bald Eagle Area School District: **www.beasd.org**

Bellefonte Area School District: **www.basd.net**

Keystone Central School District: **www.kcsd.k12.pa.us**

Penns Valley Area School District: **www.pennsvalley.org**

Philipsburg-Osceola Mills School District: **www.pomounties.org**

State College Area School District: **www.scasd.org**

Tyrone Area School District: **www.tyrone.k12.pa.us**

School districts acquire funding in part from real estate and earned income taxes on the residents and properties in the school districts' jurisdictions. Budgeting for facilities renovations and maintenance can result in increased taxes to fund building projects. More information on school districts' tax rates can be found on the County's website under the Department of Tax Assessment at www.centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?NID=425.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Centre County Christian Academy, **www.cccacademy.org**

Children's House Montessori School, **ww.occmontessori.org**

The Goddard School, **www.goddardschool.com**

Nittany Christian School, **www.nittanychristian.com**

Our Children's Center, **www.occmontessori.org**

Our Lady of Victory, **www.olvcatholicschool.org**

Park Forest Montessori, **www.parkforestmontessori.com**

Red Satchel Montessori School

St. John Catholic School, **www.saintjohnsch.net**

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, **www.stjoeacad.org**

State College Friends School, **www.scfriends.org**

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Center Learning Community Charter School, **clccharter.org**

Nittany Valley Charter School, **www.nvcs.org**

Wonderland Charter School, **www.wonderlandcharter.com**

Young Scholars of Central PA Charter School, **yscp.org**

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology **(www.cpi.edu)** offers vocational and technical training courses for adults and high school students. Adults can attain 2-year associates degrees in healthcare, information technologies, automotive repair and diagnostics, and many other fields that prepare students for advanced careers. In 2015, the transportation training center was completed which offers state-of-the art facilities for persons acquiring commercial drivers licenses. A planned medical sciences building will enhance the healthcare education for practitioners and CPI hopes to involve a regional healthcare provider for student-practitioner interactions.
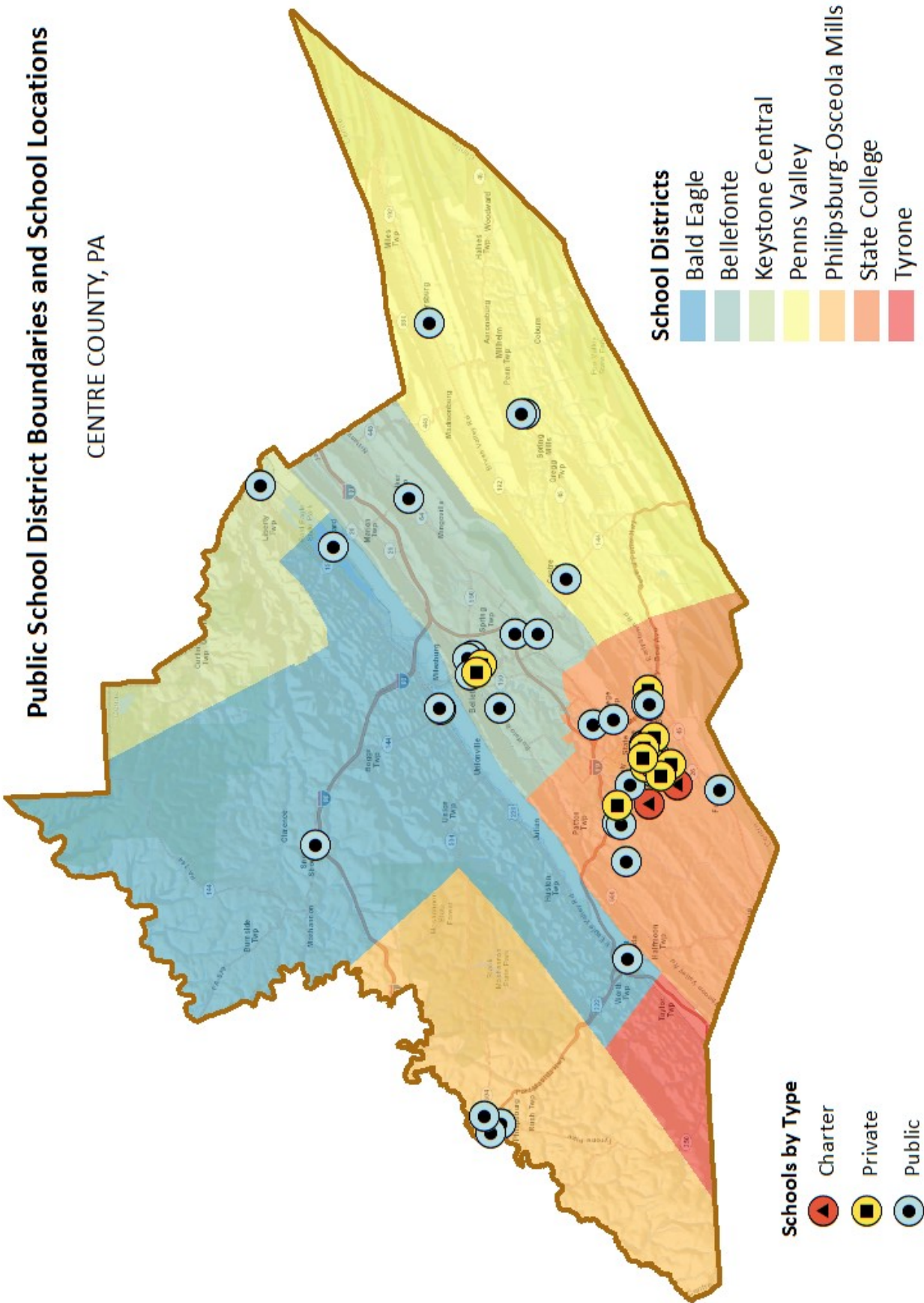
Public School District Boundaries and School Locations

CENTRE COUNTY, PA

School Districts

- Bald Eagle
- Bellefonte
- Keystone Central
- Penns Valley
- Philipsburg-Osceola Mills
- State College
- Tyrone

Schools by Type

- Charter
- Private
- Public

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

SCHOOL DISTRICT/BUILDINGS	LOCATION	2016 ENROLLMENT	CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS
BALD EAGLE AREA	See map	1,699	Bald Eagle Junior-Senior High School underwent renovations between 2009 and 2011 to include HVAC upgrades and roof solar panels. BEASD has a facility plan to the year 2030. In addition, the Environmental Center was constructed in 2012.
Bald Eagle Junior-Senior High School	Boggs Twp.	964	
Howard Elementary School	Howard Boro.	88	
Port Matilda Elementary School	Port Matilda Boro.	123	
Mountaintop Elementary	Snow Shoe Boro.	139	
Wingate Elementary	Boggs Twp.	380	
BELLEFONTE AREA	See map	2,696	
Bellefonte Elementary School	Bellefonte Boro.	376	The BASD Facilities Planning Committee regularly updates their strategic plan, request for bids, and meeting notes (https://www.basd.net/Page/12578).
Bellefonte Middle School	Bellefonte Boro.	642	
Bellefonte High School	Bellefonte Boro.	844	
Benner Elementary School	Benner Twp.	266	
Marion-Walker Elementary School	Walker Twp.	348	
Pleasant Gap Elementary School	Spring Twp.	220	
KEYSTONE CENTRAL	See map	4,027	
Liberty –Curtin Elementary School	Liberty Twp.	245	No immediate improvement projects.
PENNS VALLEY AREA	See map	1,456	
Centre Hall-Potter Elementary	Centre Hall Boro.	260	Two-year high school renovation project totaling $16 million will include adding air conditioning and upgrading classrooms for information technologies.
Miles Township Elementary School	Miles Twp.	107	
Penns Valley Elementary/Intermediate	Penn Twp.	419	
Penns Valley High School	Penn Twp.	670	
PHILIPSBURG-OSCEOLA	See map	1,753	
Philipsburg-Osceola Elementary	Rush Twp.	404	No immediate improvement projects.
Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School	Philipsburg Boro.	515	
Philipsburg-Osceola High School	Philipsburg Boro.	537	
STATE COLLEGE AREA	See map	6,768	
Corl Street Elementary School	State College Boro.	235	The State High Project (http://www.scasd.org/Domain/1891) will up-grade the existing high school build-ings and construct additional facilities. Total project cost $137 million dollars.
Easterly Parkway Elementary School	State College Boro.	344	
Ferguson Township Elementary School	Ferguson Twp.	370	
Gray's Woods Elementary School	Patton Twp.	409	
Houserville Elementary School	College Twp.	261	
Lemont Elementary School	College Twp.	100	Proposed upgrades to the Corl Street, Houserville and Radio Park Elementary Schools. Total estimated project costs for all three schools $57 million dollars.
Mount Nittany Elementary School	College Twp.	335	
Mount Nittany Middle School	College Twp.	764	
Panorama Village Elementary School	College Twp.	Closed 2015	
Park Forest Elementary School	Patton Twp.	490	
Park Forest Middle School	Patton Twp.	810	
Radio Park Elementary School	State College Boro.	361	
State College Area High School	State College Boro.	2,289	
TYRONE	See map		
No Buildings in Centre County			N/A

LIBRARY LOCATIONS

American Philatelic Research Library	Pennsylvania Match Factory Building, Match Factory Place, Bellefonte	stamps.org/about-the-library
Centre County Public Library	200 East Howard Street, Bellefonte	centrecountylibrary.org/library/centre-county-library-bellefonte
Centre Hall Public Library	109 Beryl Street, Centre Hall	centrecountylibrary.org/library/centre-hall-area-branch-library
East Penns Valley Library	225 East Main Street, Millheim	www.gopennsvalley.com/2014/02/east-penns-valley-librarys-new-website
Holt Memorial Library	17 North Front Street, Philipsburg	centrecountylibrary.org/library/holt-memorial-library-philipsburg
Paterno Library	University Park Campus, Penn State	libraries.psu.edu
Pattee Library	University Park Campus, Penn State	libraries.psu.edu
Schlow Library	211 South Allen Street, State College	www.schlowlibrary.org

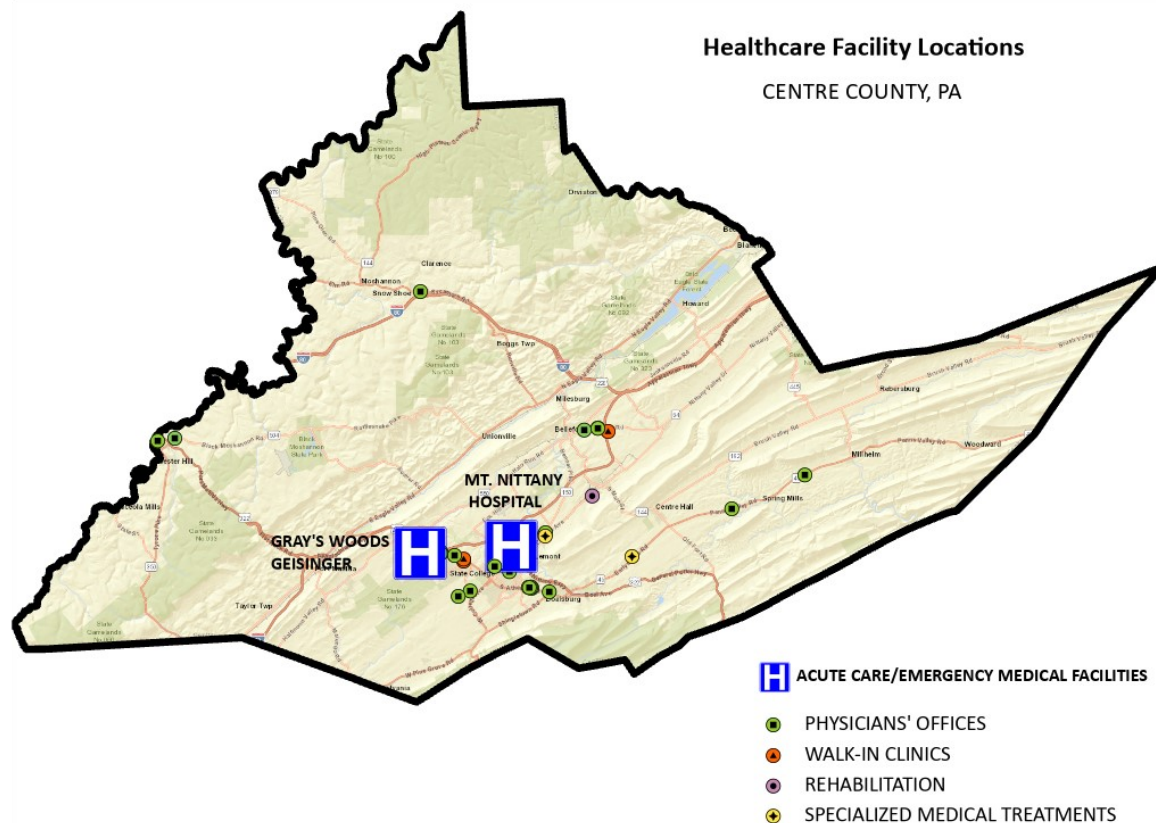The Centre County Library provides the Bookmobile in communities **without library facilities**. The bookmobile provides services in:

- Pine Glen
- Moshannon
- Snow Shoe Borough
- Howard
- Blanchard
- Bellefonte
- Pleasant Gap
- Hublersburg
- Unionville
- Port Matilda
- Stormstown
- Spring Mills
- Rebersburg

For more information, go to centre-countylibrary.org/library/centre-county-library-bookmobile.

HEALTHCARE Facilities & Services

Healthcare Facility Locations
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

H ACUTE CARE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL FACILITIES

- PHYSICIANS' OFFICES
- WALK-IN CLINICS
- REHABILITATION
- SPECIALIZED MEDICAL TREATMENTS

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Healthcare services are delivered by a select number of providers across Centre County. These include:

- Advanced Urgent Care
- Geisinger
- Mount Nittany
- MedExpress
- HealthSouth
- Penn State Hershey
- Universal Community Behavioral Health
- Veterans' Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

There are 4 urgent care clinics in Centre County: 3 in State College and 1 in Bellefonte. An urgent care clinic provides medical treatment without an appointment and these offices are open in the evenings and weekends unlike a doctor's office.

Centre Volunteers in Medicine is a community health resource center providing medical care, dental care, case management, and medication assistance to individuals without health insurance. CVIM is an independently run non-profit organization that accepts all forms of donations. CVIM provides medical and dental care, case management and necessary medications at no cost to qualified uninsured and underinsured residents of Centre County. For more information, go to **http://www.cvim.net**.

The Meadows is a behavioral health treatment facility located in Central Pennsylvania and is the core of an integrated delivery system for the treatment of mental illness. The Meadows, a 107-bed private behavioral health care facility, is located minutes outside State College in Central Pennsylvania. The Meadows provides comprehensive mental and behavioral health treatment services to children, adolescents, adults and older adults. Each unit on campus provides specialized care programs for every age group. Offering a wide referral network of providers throughout Central Pennsylvania, The Meadows represents a regional specialty system structured to meet a continuum of care.

Retirement Living Communities
Centre County

1. Philipsburg Towers
2. Philips Place
3. Windy Hill Village
4. The Heights at Windy Hill
5. Westminster Place
6. Westminster Place South
7. North Allen Street Residences
8. Elmcroft
9. Greenhills Village
10. The Crossings
11. Harmony
12. House of Care
13. Arnold Addison Court
14. Heartside
15. Anthony House at Foxdale Village
16. Foxdale Village
17. Darlington House
18. The Pines at Brookline
19. Wellspring Memory at Brookline

20. Juniper Village at Brookline
21. Brookline
22. The Inn at Juniper Village
23. Village Heights
24. Mount Nittany Residences
25. Liberty Hill
26. Wynwood House Nittany Valley
27. Wynwood House Penns Valley
28. Bellaire Court
29. The Village at Penn State
30. The Atrium at the Village of Penn State
31. Lutheran Commons
32. The Oaks at Pleasant Gap
33. Fox Hill Apartments
34. Wynwood Apartments
35. Brockerhoff House
36. Centre Crest
37. Crestside Terrace
38. Eagle Valley Personal Care Home
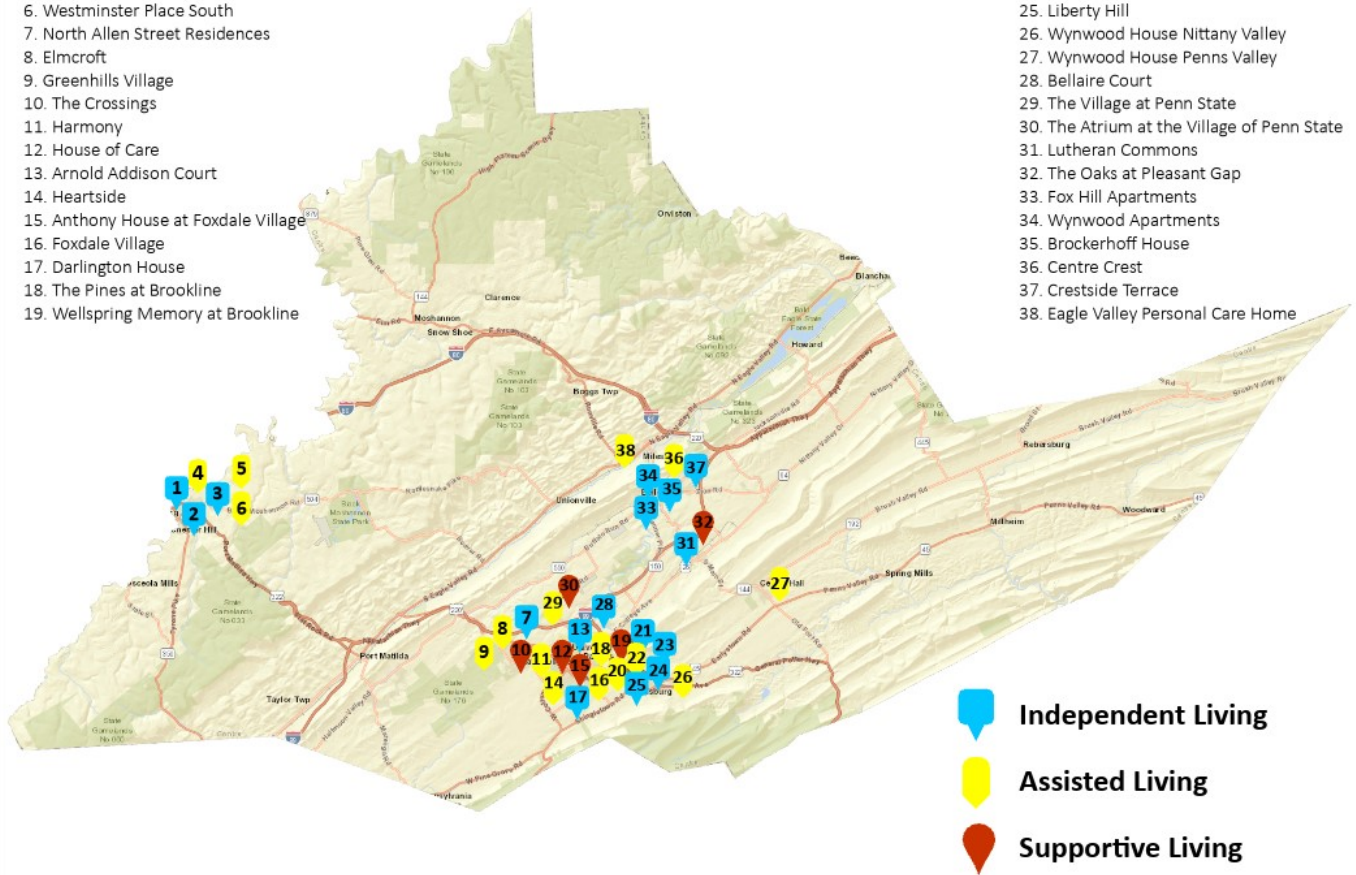
Independent Living

Assisted Living

Supportive Living

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Related to healthcare are those facilities that provide services for retired and senior persons. Centre County presently has over three dozen retirement community locations offering services across a spectrum of living needs.

Independent living communities offer minimal personal services to residents but have additional on-site amenities such as laundry rooms, community social halls and public bus route stops. Independent living communities target the 55+ age population whom may wish to downsize their residential living space and/ or relieve themselves of homeowner maintenances and repairs.

Assisted living communities offer some level of personal services to residents such as daily meal preparation and laundry services. Residents may live independently to an extent but need and/ or desire assistance on a day-to-day basis.

Supportive living communities offer more personal services and residents usually require individualized treatment and/ or long term care. These services can include but are not limited to monitoring medical conditions and medicines, help with personal hygiene and nutrition, and offering social activities and mental engagement when appropriate.

As the population in Centre County continues to grow and age, retirement community facilities and services targeted to senior residents are expected to increase in number as well.

RECREATION Facilities & Services

GREENWAYS

The Centre County Recreation and Greenway Plan identified eight (8) linkages or corridors (existing and proposed) to serve as Greenways—linear connections that provide a recreation utility often tied to alternative transportation modes. These greenways are:

- PA Wilds/State Route 144
- Beech Creek Greenway
- Spring Creek Canyon
- Penns Valley Rail Trail
- Halfmoon Wildlife Corridor
- Musser Gap Corridor
- Bellefonte to State College
- Snow Show Rail Trail.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The County does not own park lands; parkland spaces are owned and maintained by municipalities, the state, or private entities.

STATE FOREST

The County contains 163,000 acres of State Forest Lands that are owned and managed by DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. Four (4) forest districts cover the County. The State Forests are:

- Bald Eagle
- Sproul
- Moshannon
- Rothrock.

STATE GAME LANDS

The County contains 66,000 acres of State Game Lands. These lands are owned and managed by the PA Game Commission. The game lands are numbered as follows: 33, 60, 92, 100, 103, 176, 295, and 323.

STATE PARKS

Over 6,000 total acres of State Park Lands are contained in:

- Bald Eagle State Park
- Black Moshannon State Park
- Poe Paddy State Park
- Poe Valley State Park
- Penn Roosevelt State Park
- McCall's Dam State Park.

ATV TRAILS

The Snow Shoe Rail Trail is the only legally recognized ATV use trail in Centre County. The 40+ mile trail spans the northern tier connecting just east of Casanova to just north of Orviston.

HIKING TRAILS

There are over 1,000 miles of hiking trails through the County. The Mid-State Trail crosses through part of the County's southern edge in the Tussey Mountain area. Looped trail systems such as the Allegheny Front and the Chuck Keiper Trail tie nicely in with State Parks and State Forest Lands.

BIKING TRAILS

There are Pennsylvania-designated bicycle highways that cross the Commonwealth. Two (2) PA bike routes cross Centre County: Bicycle Route V and Bicycle Route G. Route V follows State Route 144 and Route G follows State Route 45. The State College Area has extensive bicycle facilities which includes multi-use bike-ped paths and designated on-road bike lanes. The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) installed bicycle racks on their public buses and placed bicycle racks at strategic areas to support passengers who both ride and bike to work. Local bicycle enthusiasts have identified and advertise their preferred bike trails, most of which are on-road where no bike lanes exist.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Snowmobile trails are fairly limited Countywide (about 65 miles). Some townships have designated township-owned roads for snowmobile use but otherwise these trails are limited to State Park roads.

Recreation Facilities
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

Greenways
Parks
State Forest
State Game Land

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

Trails
ATV
Hiking
Biking
Snowmobile

TRANSPORTATION Facilities & Services

Transportation Facilities
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

University Park Airport

All other airports/airfields

Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Offices

CATA Fixed-Route Public Transit Service

Centre County Transportation Office

County Transportation Zones

Major Highways

Active Railway
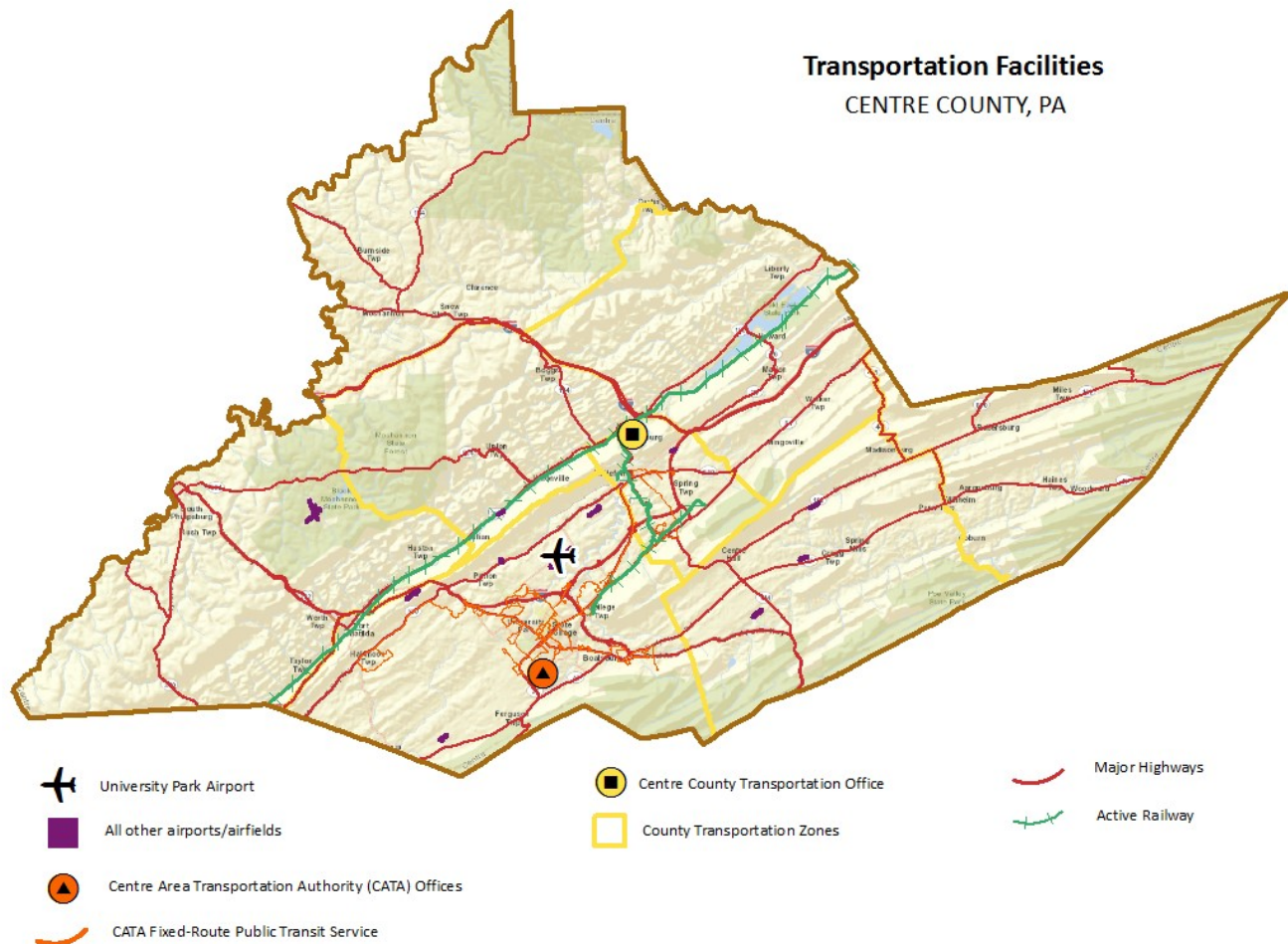
Sources : Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

Centre County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for preparing the Long Range Transportation Plan which identifies county and municipal multi-modal transportation needs. The plan update through 2044 is scheduled for completion in 2020.

Highway Projects

- Potters Mills Gap project

- State College Connector (US 322/SR 144/SR 45 improvements)

- Interstate 80/99 High Speed Access and Local Interchange Projects

Public Transportation

The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) provides public bus transit in the Centre Region and has expanded bus routes to Pleasant Gap and Bellefonte. CATA also organizes van pool and ride share programs. More information regarding CATA's services can be found at **www.catabus.com.**

County Transportation Services

The Centre County Transportation Office provides van services to qualified individuals in all regions. More information about van transportation services are is

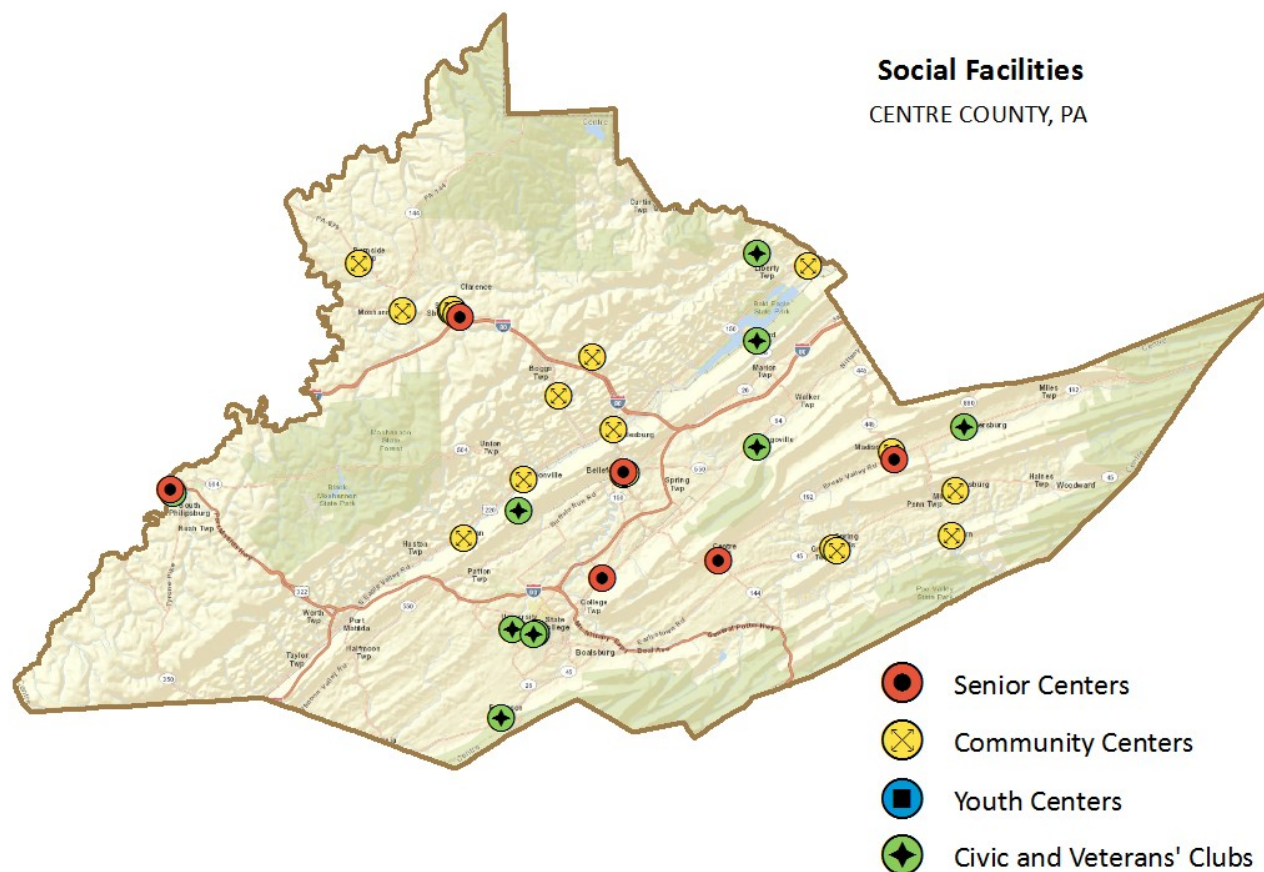available on the County's website at **www.centrecountypa.gov.**

Airports

University Park Airport is the commercial airport for Centre County. Long-range plans to expand the facility are being implemented. The Airport's Master Plan can be found at **university-parkairport.com.**

Railway

More information regarding rail services can be found at the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority website **http://www.sedacograil.org.**

SOCIAL Facilities & Services

Social Facilities
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

Legend:
- Senior Centers
- Community Centers
- Youth Centers
- Civic and Veterans' Clubs

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

Centre County has an extensive social network and facilities. The County plays a role in helping to operate the six senior centers. The senior centers are located in Bellefonte, Centre Hall, Snow Shoe, Philipsburg, State College, and Madisonburg.

The Centre County Youth Service Bureau (YSB, http://ccysb.com) has locations in Bellefonte and Snow Shoe. YSB introduced the Safe Place Program as an outreach of the National Safe Place Program. Local businesses can register and be certified as a recognized safe place for runaway youth. These partner businesses to YSB help local youth gain access to resources such as emergency shelter or medical care in family-crisis situations. The list of safe places is online (http://ccysb.com/?page_id=776); these businesses display the safe place logo in a visible location.
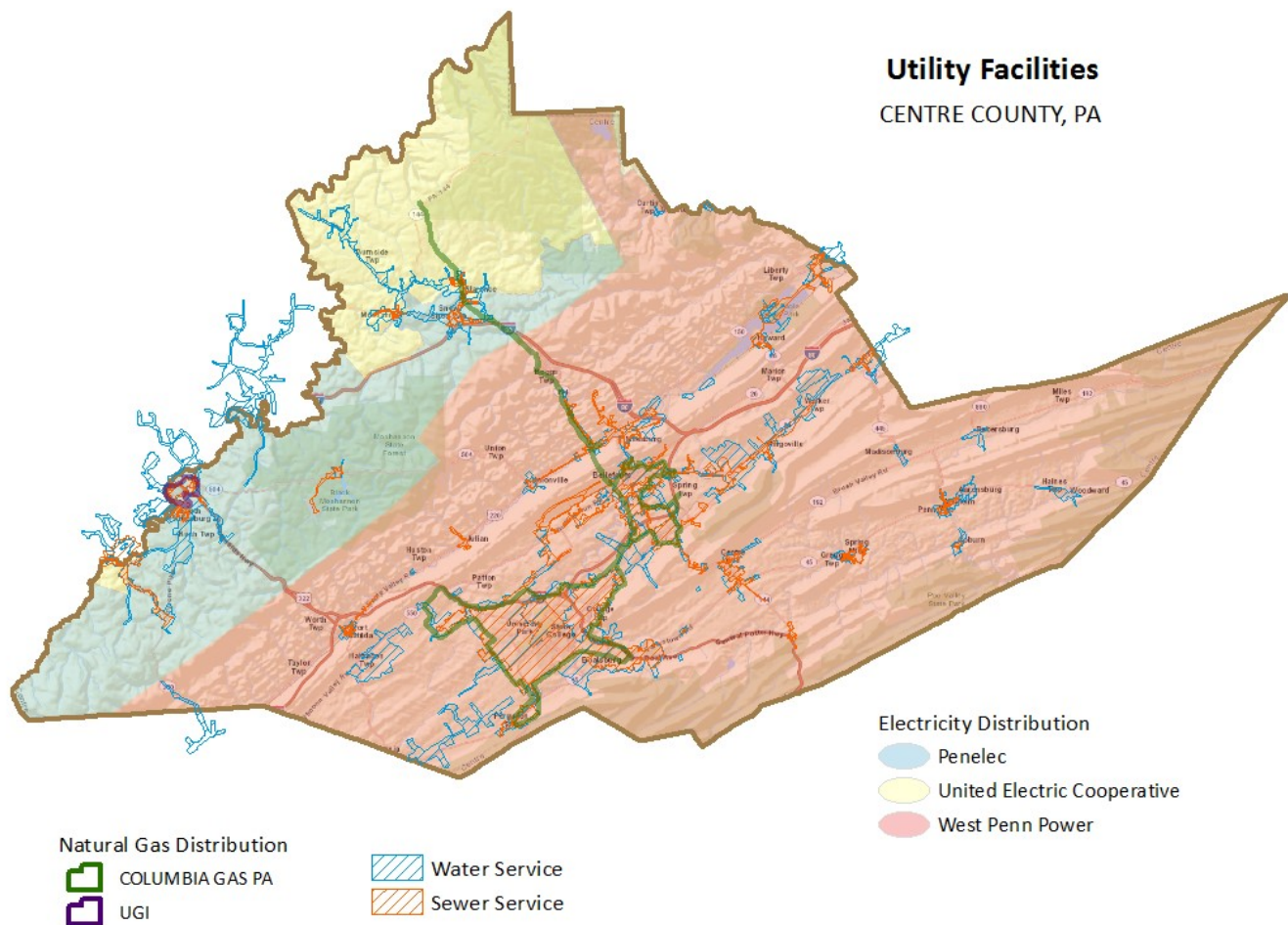
Veterans' and civic organizations provide another facet of social outreach and community support. A veterans' organization is often helpful in acting as a liaison between members who need or seek services and the points of contact at veterans' services offices.

Community centers are generally owned and operated by municipalities or non-profit groups countywide. These facilities are available for rent at reasonable fees.

Also to be mentioned are services provided by faith-based organizations. Houses of Worship and religious leaders can provide resources and temporary relief to those in need through contributions towards housing and food assistance. Bellefonte's Faith Centre is an example of faith-based community support across multiple denominations that provides resources and programs.

UTILITY Facilities & Services

Utility Facilities
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

Electricity Distribution
- Penelec
- United Electric Cooperative
- West Penn Power

Natural Gas Distribution
- COLUMBIA GAS PA
- UGI

Water Service
Sewer Service

Sources : Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

There are 47 public/community water systems and 24 public/community sewer systems in Centre County. Nearly all of these systems are operated as an authority. Only a handful of systems provide water and sewerage to multiple municipalities or are operated in-joint by multiple municipalities.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Safe Drinking Water Unit continues to work with Centre County's water providers to complete and adopt Source Water Protection Plans (SWPPs). A SWPP helps both the water provider and the municipality to set goals and implement strategies to protect drinking water sources. More information about SWPPs is available from the Planning Office.

The PA DEP also oversees long-term sewage facilities planning under Act 537. More detailed information can be found in the On-lot Sewage and Sewer Treatment Facilities Chapter.

Electricity and natural gas are utilities not provided by municipalities but important to consider in the County's long-term planning. Natural gas expansion continues to be at the forefront of infrastructure planning through the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative of which Centre County is a member. Targeted areas for installing new natural gas pipeline include Centre Hall Borough, the industrial corridor in Boggs Township, and the Interstate 80 interchange for Snow Shoe. These locations are in close proximity (relatively speaking in terms of

pipelines) to potential end-users.

Understanding electrical distribution in terms of capacity is critical when planning for larger facilities that will consume power on a continuous basis. Working with the economic development staff at Penelec and West Penn Power (both FirstEnergy subsidiaries) is recommended.

PUBLIC SAFETY Facilities & Services
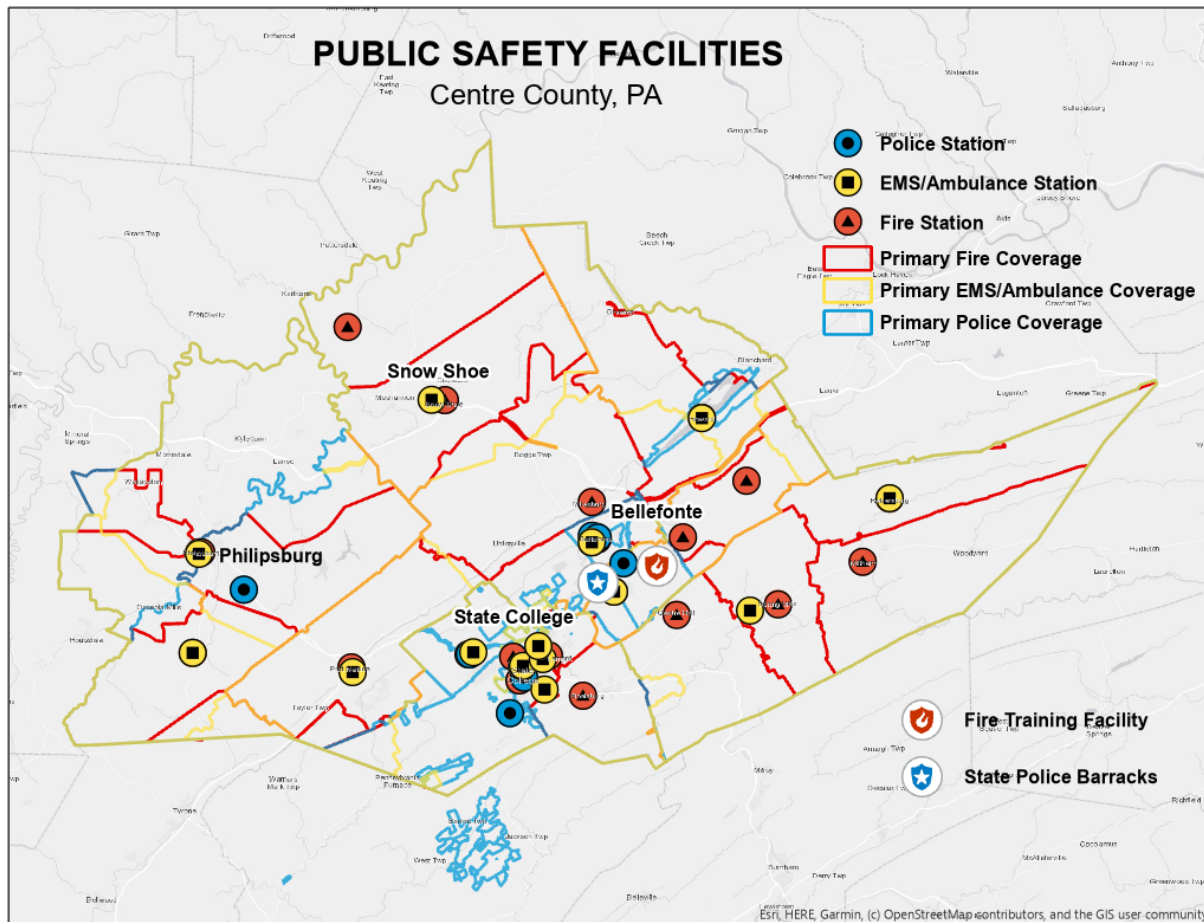
The County's Public Safety Chapter covers in detail the companies and departments that provide police, fire and emergency medical services as well as their respective coverage areas. The map above is a simplified version that depicts the overlap of service areas across the providers. Lack of volunteer manpower and sparsely available waterline infrastructure in rural areas were the issues addressed.

Municipalities have to see that these services are provided but how (or who) provides these services is another matter. Nearly all of the fire companies are volunteer, the EMS providers have paid technicians with volunteer support, and police services are either local forces, state police, or sometimes a combination of both.

Municipalities with dense population and stable tax bases are already providing public safety services on their own and, in some cases, contracting those services to neighboring municipalities. In municipalities with lower populations and smaller tax bases, providing these services is becoming increasingly difficult as the lack of volunteers is coupled with funding shortages. The State Police cover 75% of the County's land area but that is only 30% of the total population. For that reason alone, rural municipalities cannot justify the cost of a local police force to service a small percentage of residents. Purchasing neighboring police services may be an option if it is not cost prohibitive.

Mergers and consolidations are not popular strategies; however, in terms of operations, budgeting and administration, both fire companies and EMS providers may have to evaluate their long-term financial sustainability and determine if partnering, even for purchasing equipment and gear, will ease the bottom line.

Lastly, municipalities can tax residents for public safety services. Many already collect a fire tax and, levying an EMS tax is an option that although not popular either may be needed to retain the service unless state and federal medical reimbursement schedules change.

INTERRELATIONSHIPS

Economic Development

- Community facilities serve as anchor institutions which draw similar ventures (both public and private) that enhance rural communities.

- The presence of community facilities and services attracts new residents and businesses.

- When permanent facilities or services cannot be established in a municipality, a regional approach should be taken to ensure that the need is fulfilled in the short-term with a long-term strategy towards permanency.

- Under provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts, the creation of Census-tract level "Opportunity Zones" may bring private investment dollars to qualified communities funded through Opportunity Funds. More information can be found at http://eig.org/.

- Post-secondary and vocational schools can provide much-needed technical training to close the skills gaps in the adult workforce.

- Trail towns and eco-tourism strategies may be a viable option for both rural and suburban communities to infuse visitor dollars into the local economy.

- Tele-medicine technologies can be further explored where healthcare provider offices are lacking.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Multiple use facilities that are operated and supported by partners decreases the financial burden to municipalities and taxpayers.

- The cost to provide services must be bore by somewhere, therefore municipalities must weigh how much growth they desire with the proper level of services.

- In some cases, municipalities may want to review the delivery of services by agencies and entities to determine if another service model is applicable, such as: mergers, consolidations, or cost-sharing of administrative functions.

- According to the 2017 Pennsylvania Department of Education's Student Enrollment Projections through 2025, the number of students will remain nearly unchanged for Bald Eagle, Penns Valley, and State College Area School Districts while Bellefonte will see nearly a 3% increase in enrollment. Districts' master planning should address not just the *revenue* streams which are dependent on student counts, but fixed *expenditures* that are not tied to enrollment and cut long-term commitments (contracts) that extend well beyond forecasted revenues.

- Where public transit bus services cannot be supported, municipalities may explore transportation alternatives such as van sharing programs or establishing carpool parking lots.

INTERRELATIONSHIPS

Energy and Environmental Impacts

- Adaptive reuse of existing buildings retains facilities and services within communities and reduces sprawl.

- Siting community facilities in close proximity to public transportation routes or, better yet, within walking distance of users, reduces vehicle trips and emissions.

- Dual-use facilities for alternative transportation (for example, shared paths for pedestrians and bicyclists) reduces dependency on vehicles.

- Building renovations and up-grades for energy efficiency reduces operating costs and savings can be put towards future capital improvements.

- Utilities meeting Act 129 of 2008 are promoting energy efficiency and rebate programs to achieve targeted reduction goals to residents, businesses, and governments.

Social and Community Development

- The USDA and HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program offer grants, loans or a combination to rural communities to improve community facilities and services.

- The County's role as a facilitator for multiple social agencies is an effort to promote both cooperation but also a means to deliver services to those populations most in need.

- Cyber-learning opportunities do not have to isolate students from social interaction when public and private schools can share facilities and services.

- Volunteer-based public service organizations can be key partners and stakeholders that can advance community efforts.

CENTRE **COUNTY**

PENNSYLVANIA

2019 Centre County Planning Opportunities

Sources

Centre Area Transportation Authority. https://www.catabus.com.

Centre County Government. http://www.centrecountypa.gov.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. http://www.dcnr.pa.gov.

Pennsylvania Department of Education. http://www.education.pa.gov.

Pennsylvania Department of Health. http://www.health.pa.gov.

U.S. Census Bureau, Pennsylvania State Data Center's Population Projections to 2040. https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu.